Exchange Network Grant Program
FY 2015 Solicitation Notice Webinar

A Guide for Preparing Quality

Applications

Overview

- FY 2015 Grant Program Basics

- What's New?

- Tips and Tricks

- Application Instructions

- What pitfalls should I avoid?

- Questions

- Contacts

FY 2015 Grant Program Basic Information

- Applications due November 24, 2014
- States, federally recognized tribes and territories are eligible to apply
- Non-eligible entities can partner with an eligible one; eligible partner must be the lead applicant
- Notification of selection (not official) to go out late March to April 2015
- Awards made May through September 2015
- Projects must be activities specifically mentioned in the priorities section of the Solicitation Notice or Appendix A
    - Must commit to completion of an activity
    - Completion means fully implementing a data flow, data publishing, deployment of a web service or another project
- EPA may partially fund proposals

What's New?

New this FY

- This year's Solicitation Notice contains opportunities for traditional Phase 2 (or Phase 1) Exchange Network priorities and for E-Enterprise related priorities
- Only partnership applications will be accepted for E-Enterprise related grants; we expect to award 3-4 E-Enterprise related grants in FY 2015

Exchange Network Program Priorities (Section I-E.1)

- Tier 1 focuses on Phase 2 (e.g., development of web services/API publishing, virtual node, Shared CROMERR Services and Components, integration of new technologies into a partner's information technology infrastructure, implementation of new national data exchanges)
- Tier 2 focuses on the priorities continuing from Phase 1 (e.g., implementation of the original 10 priority data exchanges, including new RCRAinfo modules and new ICIS-NPDES data families) and the remainder of Exchange Network related activities
- No Tier 3 priorities

Exchange Network Evaluation Criteria (Section V-A.1)

- Mandatory 10 point deduction for failure to provide a detailed itemized budget
- Statement of business need is no longer required

What's New?

New since FY 2013-2014, Still The Case in FY 2015

- Enhancing (e.g., new parameters, adding historical data) dataflows no longer a priority

- Implementation plan is no longer required

- Increased point value for allocating budget by goal

- Maximum project period extended from 2 to 3 years

- $300K for individual grants; $500K for partnerships

- Excessive ULO's will result in a mandatory 10 point deduction

- Applicants with 5 or more active Exchange Network grants are ineligible

Tips and Tricks for Preparing a Successful Grant Application

- Read Solicitation Notice carefully
  - Note all requirements for a complete application
  - Solicitation Notice includes a checklist in Appendix G

- Note in cover letter what opportunity you are applying for: traditional Phase 2 (or Phase 1) Exchange Network or E-Enterprise related priorities

- Write to the evaluation criteria
  - Make this easy for reviewers – take the guess work out
  - Use our language

- Review the application to make sure it is complete

Application Instructions

- Submit via hardcopy or grants.gov

- Required documents (checklist in Appendix G and on website)

- Page limit with font and margin specifications

- Project narrative is the most important element – read guidelines on page D-2

- If submitting through grants.gov – you must receive the second email

- No matter how you submit, if you have not received a confirmation that we received your application by the end of December, call us – please do not wait

Common Pitfalls

- Goals, outputs and outcomes not well organized or described
- Budgets not broken down by goal
- Applications that are not related to EN technology
- Applications that do not align with priorities
- Applications that include O&M
- Project narratives that exceed 10 pages
- Partnerships in the same state

Goals, Outputs, Target Dates and Outcomes

Goal	Output	Target Date[1]	Outcome
EIS & GHG Data Flows	1.1 CERS data mapped to XML schema	Jan. 1, 2011	Increased availability of timely, high quality data to other Exchange Network partners will improve environmental decision-making.
	1.2 EIS flow to EPA becomes operational	June 1, 2011	
	1.3 GHG flow to EPA becomes operational[2]	Dec. 31, 2011	
	1.4 Improve GIS locations & geospatial metadata for air release points[3]	Sept. 30, 2012	
	1.5 Add Assessment Module[3] to evaluate air emissions near new construction projects	Mar. 31, 2012	
WQX[4]	2.1 Data mapped to XML schema[2]	Mar. 31, 2011	Increased availability of data to other Exchange Network partners. Electronic availability of standardized, timely, high quality data over the Exchange Network will improve the analysis of water quality monitoring data and lead to better decision-making.
	2.2 Implement WQX Flow[3]	Sept. 30, 2011	
	2.3 Written documentation of implementing WQX with multi-state AWQMS database	Jan. 31, 2012	
	2.4 Publish Web Service	Sept. 30, 2012	

QUESTIONS?

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